

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 23 and 24, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

1. (Currently Amended) A collaboration system that allows the exchange of data between electronic participants in an electronic commerce environment, comprising:

a plurality of collaboration spaces for an exchange of data between a plurality of electronic participants, wherein each of the plurality of collaboration spaces defines defining rules governing said transfer both the exchange of the data and the a role of said each of the plurality of participants, and wherein each collaboration space is accessible to the plurality of participants using any of a plurality of business protocols;

a collaboration hub for the transfer of data between the plurality of participants and the plurality of collaboration spaces, wherein the collaboration hub includes a plurality of business protocol handlers for handling different business protocols, and wherein each combination of a particular collaboration space and particular business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and

a hub transport that allows is used by a participant to exchange data with another participant via send and receive data from the collaboration hub and in accordance with the definitions rules of the a particular collaboration space, wherein each of the participants specify a particular business protocol and a particular collaboration space by communicating with the collaboration hub using the unique uniform resource locator for that collaboration space and business protocol combination.

2. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 1 wherein each participant includes a collaboration enabler wherein said collaboration enabler includes a business logic specified by the participant.

3. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 2 wherein the collaboration hub includes a business logic compatible with that of the collaboration enabler.

4. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 1 wherein the collaboration hub includes a data logic for intelligent transfer of data according to participant specifications.
5. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 2 wherein said collaboration enabler includes an interface to a participant workflow process.
6. (Currently Amended) The collaboration system of claim 5 wherein said participant workflow process determines the a flow of data between the collaboration enabler and the collaboration hub.
7. (Currently Amended) The collaboration system of claim 6 wherein the participant workflow process generates ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language messages.
8. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 1 further comprising:  
a conversation manager for managing the flow of data between participants.
9. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 1 wherein the collaboration space is accessible via the Internet.
10. (Currently Amended) The collaboration system of claim 9 wherein the collaboration space ~~may be~~ is accessed by specifying a uniform resource locator for said collaboration space.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of allowing electronic participants to exchange data in an electronic commerce environment, comprising the steps of:  
providing a plurality of collaboration spaces for an exchange of data between a plurality of electronic participants, wherein each of the plurality of collaboration spaces defines rules governing both the exchange of the data and a role of each of the plurality of participants, and wherein each collaboration space is accessible to the plurality of participants using any of a plurality of business protocols ~~collaboration space defining the rules governing said transfer of data and the role of said participants; and~~

transferring data between the plurality of participants and the plurality of collaboration spaces at a collaboration hub, wherein the collaboration hub includes a plurality of business protocol handlers for handling different business protocols, and wherein each combination of a particular collaboration space and particular business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and

~~allowing a participant to send and receive data from the collaboration hub via a hub transport~~ in accordance with the definitions of the collaboration space using a hub transport to exchange data from one participant to another participant via the collaboration hub and in accordance with the rules of a particular collaboration space, wherein each of the participants specify a particular business protocol and a particular collaboration space by communicating with the collaboration hub using the unique uniform resource locator for that collaboration space and business protocol combination.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein each participant includes a collaboration enabler for sending and receiving data via the hub transport, wherein said collaboration enabler includes a business logic specified by the participant.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the collaboration hub uses business logic compatible with that of the collaboration enabler.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the collaboration hub uses data logic for intelligent transfer of data according to participant specifications.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said participant collaboration enabler interfaces with a participant workflow process.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said participant workflow process determines the flow of data between the collaboration enabler and the collaboration hub.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 including generating ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language messages during the ~~workflow~~ participant workflow process and transferring them to the collaboration hub.
18. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
managing the flow of data as a conversation between participants.
19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the collaboration space is accessible via the Internet.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
accessing the collaboration space by specifying a uniform resource locator for said collaboration space.
21. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 1 further comprising a workflow directing the transfer of data between participants.
22. (Original) The collaboration system of claim 21 wherein the workflow includes at least one flow lane for each participant and the action of the workflow is determined by data sent to and received from a first participant flow lane to a second participant flow lane.
23. (Currently Amended) The collaboration system of claim 22 wherein the workflow is defined by an ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language definition.
24. (Currently Amended) The collaboration system of claim 23, wherein the ~~XML~~ Extensible Markup Language definition is created by a ~~UML~~ Unified Modeling Language modeler.